

CLAIMS

1. A method of ascertaining due presence of a disc-shaped data carrier (8) in a nominal position in a recording and/or playback unit (1); wherein use is made of a data carrier (8) having a transmission path which starts at a first boundary surface of the data carrier (8) and passes through the data carrier (8) and ends at a second boundary surface of the data carrier (8), which transmission path is transparent to a test beam, and wherein an optical test beam is provided, and wherein the test beam is passed through the data carrier (8) using the transmission path when the data carrier (8) is present in the nominal position, and wherein the test beam passed through the data carrier (8) using the transmission path is detected.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein use is made of a data carrier (8) having a central passage opening (10) which is delimited by a passage opening boundary surface and having an outer circumference which is delimited by an outer circumference boundary surface and having a transmission path which extends from the passage opening boundary surface to the outer circumference boundary surface, and wherein the test beam is fed into the transmission path via the passage opening boundary surface of the data carrier (8), and wherein the test beam is detected after it emerges from the data carrier (8) via the outer circumference boundary surface of the data carrier (8).
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the test beam is deflected in terms of its beam direction prior to entering the transmission path.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the test beam provided is generated by means of a test signal which is modulated with regard to a modulation parameter, and wherein a detection signal which is modulated with regard to the modulation parameter is generated by means of the test beam passed through the data carrier (8) using the transmission path, and wherein the values of the modulation parameter of the test signal and of the detection signal are evaluated.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a receiver (13) for receiving the test beam passed through the data carrier (8) is matched to characteristic features of a source (11) for providing the test beam, for example the wavelength of the test beam and the like.

5 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the test beam is detected at a plurality of positions along the circumference of the disc-shaped data carrier (8) and a plurality of detection results are accordingly formed, which detection results are passed for joint evaluation.

10 7. A device for ascertaining due presence of a disc-shaped data carrier (8) in a nominal position in a recording and/or playback unit (1), which data carrier (8) has a transmission path which starts at a first boundary surface of the data carrier (8) and passes through the data carrier (8) and ends at a second boundary surface of the data carrier (8), which transmission path is transparent to a test beam, comprising: provision means (11, 13, 15 21, 24) for providing a test beam, which provision means (11) are designed and arranged such that the at least one test beam can be fed to the transmission path at the first boundary surface of the data carrier (8) when the data carrier (8) is present in its nominal position, and detection means (13, 23, 24) for detecting the at least one test beam emerging from the transmission path at the second boundary surface when the data carrier (8) is present in its 20 nominal position.

8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the data carrier (8) has a central passage opening (10) which is delimited by a passage opening boundary surface and an outer circumference which is delimited by an outer circumference boundary surface and a 25 transmission path which extends from the passage opening boundary surface to the outer circumference boundary surface, and wherein the provision means (11, 19, 20, 21) are formed by a light source which is arranged next to the passage opening boundary surface of the data carrier (8), and wherein the detection means (13, 23, 24) are formed by a plurality of test beam receivers (13), which test beam receivers (13) are arranged next to and along the 30 outer circumference boundary surface of the data carrier (8).

9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the plurality of test beam receivers (13) are arranged distributed at essentially equidistant angular spacings.

10. A device as claimed in claim 7 or 8 or 9, wherein at least one deflection element (19, 20), in particular a deflection mirror, is provided to deflect the test beam, by means of which the test beam can be deflected in terms of its beam direction towards the transmission path.

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11. A device as claimed in claim 7 or 8 or 9, wherein the provision means (11, 19, 20, 21) are designed to generate a test signal which is modulated with regard to a modulation parameter, which test signal can be used to generate at least one test beam, and wherein the detection means are designed to generate a detection signal which is modulated with regard to the modulation parameter, which detection signal is generated by means of the test beam passed through the data carrier (8) using the transmission path, and wherein evaluation means (25) are provided which are coupled to the provision means (11) and are designed to evaluate the values of the modulation parameter of the test signal and of the detection signal.

10 12. A recording and/or playback unit comprising a device as claimed in any of claims 7 to 11.

13. The use of a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 and/or of a device as claimed in any of claims 7 to 11 in a children's toy.